PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: ERNST FUCHS

ART UNIT: 3775

SERIAL NO.: 10/519,772

EXAMINER: JAMES L. SWIGER, III

FILED: DECEMBER 24, 2004

CONFIRMATION NO.: 6953

TITLE: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

PETITION UNDER RULE 136(a) FOR A THREE-MONTH EXTENSION

Hon. Commissioner for Patents United States Patent and Trademark Office P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), for a three-month extension, until February 3. 2010, in which to file an *Amendment in Response to the Fourth Office Action*, dated August 3, 2009, for the above-identified patent application.

The shortened statutory period for response expired on July 3, 2008. The requisite fee of \$555.00 (small entity) is being concurrently remitted via EFT.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST FUCHS

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